

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Friday, January 12, 2024

**Members present:** Dave Barsness, Dorothy Dybvig, John Gaede, Karry White, Elsie Laursen, Council Liaison Val Palmer

**Members absent:** Tony Vavricka

**Staff Present:** Administrator Kathy George

**Other:** Todd Sandell

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chair Dybvig.

**Approve Agenda**

**Motion Barsness, second White, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion passed 5-0.**

**Approve Meeting Minutes**

**Motion White, second Gaede, to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2023 meeting. Motion passed 5-0.**

**New Business**

**Park Commissioner Vacancy**

Park Commissioners serve 3-year terms. With the resignation of David Chasson, a vacancy exists. The City is currently advertising for the position, with responses due by January 24<sup>th</sup>. Todd Sandell and Sally Brewster have each submitted applications. Sandell was present and expressed appreciation for the work the Park Commission is doing and stated his desire to be a part of that work. This item will be placed on the February meeting agenda for action, allowing all interested people to respond to the advertisement.

**Continuing Business/Updates**

**Annual Events**

- Ice Fest – January 13-14:
  - Commissioner Gaede is coordinating volunteers to help with parking; so far, response has been minimal.
  - Perhaps local organizations and restaurants would like to reach out to the MN Climbers Association and see how they can be involved. *210 Gallery & Art Center and Sandstone Pizza have both been informed/invited. Sandstone Pizza expressed interest in having a food truck.*
  - Commissioner Barsness would like to have information on the Phase 2 Robinson Quarry Park improvement project to share with the climbers during the event; Administrator George will prepare an information board
  - PW Director Hiler was asked to fence off the new pavilion area to protect the new footings for the pavilion. *DONE*

- The City is working with five Humphrey School students on a Downtown Redevelopment Plan. Two of them plan to attend Ice Fest and interview attendees about what they would like to see in the downtown area.
- City Skate & Slide – February 3 (backup date February 10)
  - Flyers have been sent to the schools for distribution
  - The ad is running in the local newspapers
  - Smores, hot cocoa, and hot cider will be provided
  - Invite Sandstone Royalty to participate
- Spring Park Clean Up – April 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Commissioner Gaede will lead the coordination of cleaning up the parks; Commissioner Barsness will lead the Robinson Quarry Park efforts
  - Make flyer – advertise to the community – Commissioner Gaede will make a flyer
  - Include in the Spring newsletter
  - Ask Sirena to share through the Neighborhood Watch program
  - Provide donuts, pizza, water for participants
- Arts in the Park – Tuesdays in June
  - Commissioner Vavricka will line up the musicians
  - American Legion Auxiliary, Dairy Association, Quarry Lions, Friends of the Library, 210 Gallery & Art Center will all be invited to participate
  - Councilor Palmer will work with Community Service Partner Samuelson
  - There are 5 Tuesdays in June this year
- Quarry Days – August 9-10
  - Commissioner White agreed to host a booth on Saturday to promote the City Parks
  - Commissioner Barsness will help as well
- Mary Thorvig Memorial Tree Garden “planting” ceremony – August 11
  - Commissioner White will help with this event; she will coordinate the planting of a flowering tree with the Thorvigs and she will see if her daughter will make a flyer for the event
- Robinson Quarry Park Clean Up – typically September or October
  - Commissioner Barsness will coordinate; timing will depend on the construction projects in the park
- Oktoberfest – October 5th
  - the Chmielewski Funtime Band has been booked
  - Councilor Palmer will check with the nursing homes about bringing residents
  - Commissioner Gaede will inform the Sandstone Lions
- Quarry City Christmas – November 30

### **Various Updates**

## **Robinson Quarry Park**

Camping Data – There were 3 registrations for 3 days of camping in December. For 2023, the total was 39 registrations for 59 days of camping. In 2022, there were 179 registrations for 262 days of camping. The effect of the construction projects on camping was noted.

### **Legacy Grant Projects**

Phase 2 – LHB Engineers Bringman and Johnson provided potential meeting dates and times to begin focused discussion on Phase 2 plans. These will be shared with Commissioners and a date that works for most will be selected.

A mandatory meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Sartell Community Center. Administrator George plans to attend.

A grant application for \$5,000 has been submitted to Minnesota Energy to help with the local match.

Meetings with the engineer/design team will resume to review the plans for this second project, which will include two access points to the river, extending the walking path 800-foot north, creating new campsites, adding a new parking lot by the climbing wall, signage, furniture and fixtures, etc. The best time to bid the project out will also be discussed, knowing that construction work can't start until Fall 2024 at the earliest.

### **WiFi in the Park**

Councilor Palmer was contacted by a board member of the MN Climbers Association, asking if the City could install WiFi in Robinson Quarry Park. The MCA has installed a camera to show the climbing walls in real time; however, the system is not ideal. Commissioners asked how and if WiFi could be a benefit in the overall park. Palmer will ask for more information from the MCA.

### **Panther Park**

A request has been submitted to MN Power to add lights on three existing power poles. FCI has agreed to fabricate a decorative fence along the street perimeter of the park. The toddler play feature has been ordered. The bike repair station and 2 bike racks have been ordered. The 4 benches donated by the Gaede family have been received. The Jamison family bench was delivered, but it is black instead of purple. Administrator George is working with the salesperson to rectify the situation.

### **Lions Hill**

The Warming House is up and running with Barb Heil and Brittney Cummins working as attendants. Things are picking up now that snow has arrived.

### **Other**

Commissioner Barsness reported that the t-shirts and sweatshirts are almost done; he will pick them up after today's meeting.

**Adjourn**

**Motion Gaede, second Barsness, to adjourn at 8:50 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy George, City Administrator